

INITIATION INTO ISAIAH

by

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CHAPTER THIRTY-NINE

THEME:

Hezekiah plays the fool.

REMARKS:

There is a transfer from Assyria in this chapter, as the enemy of Judah is one of the outstanding features of this section. At this time Babylon was a struggling city on the banks of the Euphrates, unable to overcome Assyria, however, Babylon was to become the great head of gold in the times of the Gentiles, and that makes this chapter significant.

This chapter reveals the great blunder of Hezekiah's life. After his sickness, he obviously attempted to please God. This chapter reveals his human frailty and weakness. It is after the hour of great spiritual triumph that our worst defeats come. Simon Peter could give the glorious confession, "**Thou art the Christ, the Son of the living God,**" but it was immediately following this that he could stumble and say, "**Far be that from thee, Lord.**" For the first he was given a beatitude and for the last a rebuke. Perhaps you have had a similar experience.

OUTLINE:

1. **Hezekiah RECEIVES the Embassy from Babylon.** Verses 1-2
2. **Hezekiah REBUKED by Isaiah and Warned of the Coming Babylonian Captivity.** Verses 3-8

COMMENT:

Verse 1—**At that time Merodachbaladan, the son of Baladan, king of Babylon, sent letters and a present to Hezekiah: for he had heard that he had been sick, and was recovered.**

Merodachbaladan is a meaningless king to us, but his name is full of meaning.

Dr. Jennings calls attention to the fact that the consonants which form the first name are the same as in Nimrod (m-r-d). The word means "*the rebel.*" Baladan means "*not Lord.*" His full name means "*the rebel not Lord.*"

Back of this king and Nimrod stands Satan, the arch-rebel, he is the god of this world. He came with flattery and a show of interest in Hezekiah. The messengers brought letters and a present for Hezekiah, he had taken the letter of the Assyrian in and spread it before the Lord, here he does not, as he feels no necessity. This was the most dangerous letter of all.

Verse 2—And Hezekiah was glad of them, and shewed them the house of his precious things, the silver, and the gold, and the spices, and the precious ointment, and all the house of his armour, and all that was found in his treasures: there was nothing in his house, nor in all his dominion, that Hezekiah shewed them not.

Hezekiah made the mistake of showing his silver and gold, for he was immensely wealthy.

And Hezekiah had exceeding much riches and honour and he made himself treasuries for silver, and for gold, and for precious stones, and for spices, and for shields, and for all manner of pleasant jewels: storehouses also for the increase of corn, and wine, and oil; and stalls for all manner of beasts, and cotes for flocks (II Chronicles 32:27-28).

The messengers made a note of it; and later on when a king of Babylon needed gold and silver, he knew where to go.

Verse 3—Then came Isaiah the prophet unto king Hezekiah, and said unto him, What said these men? and from whence came they unto thee? And Hezekiah said, They are come from a far country unto me, even from Babylon.

Isaiah sensed the danger and came to Hezekiah to find out how far Hezekiah had gone with them. Hezekiah had no discernment of the coming danger.

Verse 4—Then said he, What have they seen in thine houses? And Hezekiah answered, All that is in mine house have they seen: there is nothing among my treasures that I have not shewed them. This was surely a foolish thing that Hezekiah had done.

Verse 5—Then said Isaiah to Hezekiah, Hear the word of the Lord of hosts:

Verse 6—Behold, the days come, that all that is in thine house, and that which thy fathers have laid up in store until this day, shall be carried to Babylon: nothing shall be left, saith the Lord.

Verse 7—And of thy sons that shall issue from thee, which thou shalt beget, shall they take away; and they shall be eunuchs in the palace of the king of Babylon.

This is a prophecy that was literally fulfilled (See II Kings 24-25; Daniel 1).

Verse 8—Then said Hezekiah to Isaiah, Good is the word of the Lord which thou hast spoken, he said moreover, For there shall be peace and truth in my days.

This seems a very strange statement for Hezekiah to make, he was grateful that these things would not come to pass in his days, but what about his children and great grandchildren?

This concludes the historic section.

This is the final chapter of sacred history.

~ end of chapter 39 ~

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